

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 01601 281257Z

46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 L-02 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PRS-01 PA-01 (ISO) W
----- 066165

O 281147Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 258

INFO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 1601

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINR, TH

SUBJ: THAI ELECTION CENTRAL - COALITION SPECULATION

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF : BANGKOK 1600

BEGIN SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH THE CONSERVATIVE AND CENTRIST GROUPINGS ARE EVENLY MATCHED, THE DEMOCRAT PARTY COMMANDS THE MOST ATTENTION SINCE IT HAS WON THE MOST SEATS. WHILE ANY NUMBER OF COALITION POSSIBILITIES EXIST, IT APPEARS THAT EITHER A CONSERVATIVE OR CENTRIST-DOMINATED GOVERNMENT WILL REQUIRE A DEFECTION FROM THE OTHER GROUPING. WE CANNOT AT THIS TIME DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF A MINORITY GOVERNMENT.
END SUMMARY.

I. CENTRIST-DOMINATED COALITION

1. SINCE THE DEMOCRAT PARTY WON THE MOST PARLIAMENTARY SEATS, ITS CHANCES TO FORM A GOVERNMENT ARE THE MAIN OBJECT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 01601 281257Z

OF SPECULATION IN BANGKOK. ELECTION RESULTS (REFTEL) GIVE THE

CENTRIST PARTIES 102 SEATS: DEMOCRAT (72); SOCIAL ACTION (18); AND NEW FORCE (12). THIS ARITHMETIC IGNORES POTENTIAL CLASHES OF POLICIES OR PERSONALITIES AMONG THE CENTRISTS. IN ANY EVENT, THEY WILL NEED ANOTHER 33 SEATS TO MAKE A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY OF 135.

2. THE SPLINTER PARTIES WHICH HAVE THE CLOSEST AFFILIATION WITH THE CENTRISTS INCLUDE THE THAI, SOVEREIGNTY, AND DEMOCRACY PARTIES WITH EIGHT SEATS AMONG THEM. THE LEADERS OF A STRICTLY CENTRIST COALITION COULD COUNT ON ONLY 110 VOTES, THAT IS IF ALL THE SPLINTER PARTIES COOPERATED.

3. SINCE THE CENTRISTS LACK A MAJORITY, A CENTER-RIGHT COALITION IS POSSIBLE. THE THAI NATION PARTY (28 SEATS) - WHICH SMACKS LESS OF THE OLD REGIME THAN THE OTHER THREE CONSERVATIVES - MIGHT JOIN A CENTRIST COALITION. THE BASIC FOUR-PARTY COALITION WOULD THUS HAVE 130 VOTES. THE ADDITION OF THE THREE CENTRIST SPLINTER PARTIES WOULD PRODUCE A COALITION OF 138 VOTES, BARELY OVER THE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY.

4. WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE (45) INSTEAD OF THAI NATION, AN UNLIKELY POSSIBILITY, A FOUR PARTY COALITION CENTERED AROUND THE DEMOCRATS WOULD HAVE A COMFORTABLE 147 VOTES. WITH SOCIAL AGRARIAN (19) OR SOCIAL NATIONALIST (16) INSTEAD OF THAI NATION, THE COALITION WOULD HAVE AN INADEQUATE 121 OR 118 VOTES RESPECTIVELY.

5. A CENTER-LEFT COALITION WOULD BE SHAKY ON NUMERICAL AS WELL AS POLICY GROUNDS. THE THREE LARGE CENTRISTS AND THEIR THREE SPLINTERS COMBINED WITH THE SOCIALIST PARTY (15) AND THE SOCIALIST UNITED FRONT (SUF) (10) WOULD GIVE A POTENTIAL TOTAL OF 135. THERE ARE TWO LEFTIST SPLINTER PARTIES WITH ONE SEAT EACH WHICH MIGHT STRETCH THE BLOC TO 137. THE SOCIALIST PARTIES, HOWEVER, WERE CRITICAL OF THE CENTRISTS DURING THE ELECTION, AND LEFTIST LEADERS HAVE MADE A NUMBER OF POST-ELECTION COMMENTS WHICH SUGGEST THAT COALITION WITH THEM WOULD BE DIFFICULT.

II. CONSERVATIVE-DOMINATED COALITION

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 01601 281257Z

6. THE BASIC CONSERVATIVE GROUPING OF UNITED THAI PEOPLES' PARTY REMINTS - SOCIAL JUSTICE (45), THAI NATION (28), SOCIAL AGRARIAN (19) AND SOCIAL NATIONALIST (16) - CONTROLS 108 SEATS. SPLINTER PARTIES WHICH ARE ALSO CONSERVATIVE INCLUDE PEACEFUL PEOPLE (8), PEOPLES' JUSTICE (6), THAI NATIONAL REGENERATION (3), PEOPLES' FORCE (2), THAI TERRITORY (2), FREE PEOPLE (1), PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT (1), AND LABOR (1) PARTIES. THIS IS ANOTHER 24 VOTES FOR A GRAND TOTAL OF

132, CLOSE BUT NOT ENOUGH.

7. THE CONSERVATIVES, PROBABLY WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE TAKING THE LEAD, MIGHT SEEK A COALITION WITH CENTRIST SOCIAL ACTION PARTY, AN ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD YIELD A FIVE PARTY COALITION, WITH ONLY 126 SEATS. IF THE CONSERVATIVES INCLUDED THE PEACEFUL PEOPLE AND PEOPLES' JUSTICE PARTIES, THERE WOULD BE A WOBBLY SEVEN PARTY, 140 SEAT CENTER-RIGHT COALITION.

III. COMMENT

8. A COALITION WITH THE DEMOCRAT, THAI NATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE PARTIES WOULD OFFER THE ADVANTAGE OF THE SMALLEST COALITION WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARY SEATS (145), BUT SEEMS UNLIKELY AS THE TWO CONSERVATIVE PARTIES WOULD TOTAL MORE THAN THE DEMOCRATS. THE THREE PARTIES' LEADERSHIPS ALSO HAVE SIGNIFICANT PERSONALITY CLASHES.

9. THE PROBABILITY IS THAT THE RULING COALITION, WHETHER CONSERVATIVE OR CENTRIST DOMINATED, WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE TO INCLUDE A DEFECTION FROM THE OTHER'S RANKS, PERHAPS INDUCED BY THE PROMISE OF A KEY (OR LUCRATIVE) CABINET APPOINTMENT FOR THE DEFECTING PARTY LEADER. SUCH A COALITION GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE THE MOST SEATS WITH THE FEWEST PARTIES; COALITION PLANNERS PROBABLY RECOGNIZE THAT THE MORE PARTIES, THE LESS STABLE THE COALITION.

10. WE SHOULD NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE CONSERVATIVES OR THE CENTRISTS MIGHT FORM A MINORITY GOVERNMENT, HOPING THAT ON CRUCIAL VOTES THEY COULD PICK UP SUPPORT FROM INDIVIDUAL PARLIAMENTARIANS.

KINTNER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BANGKO 01601 281257Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, COALITION GOVERNMENT, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO01601
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750031-0358
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750116/aaaaanos.tel
Line Count: 154
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BANGKOK 1600
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <24 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THAI ELECTION CENTRAL - COALITION SPECULATION CINCPAC FOR POLAD
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINR, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006